



News Release

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Who goes next: Washington releases next phase of vaccine prioritization

OLYMPIA – Today the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) released guidance for the next phase of COVID-19 vaccination. The department worked closely with the Governor’s Office to finalize prioritization for phase 1B, and we are pleased to be able to share eligible groups for this next phase of vaccination. This phase is broken up into four separate tiers.

In addition to partnership with Gov. Inslee and reliance on federal guidance, nearly 20,000 people across the state weighed in on the prioritization through focus groups, interviews, and surveys over the past few months. This feedback directly informed our recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and allocation, and continues to help us make sure our vaccine plans are equitable and protect those most at risk from COVID-19 infections.

“Vaccine prioritization decisions are complex, but based in a need for equitable distribution,” says Secretary of Health Umair A. Shah. “Our priority has been to get the vaccine to high-priority people first.”

[This graphic](#) shows the groups and the timeline for phase 1B. Broadly, groups eligible for vaccination in phase 1B include:

Phase 1B1 - (Tier 1)

- All people 70 years and older
- People 50 years and older who live in multigenerational households

Phase 1B2 - (Tier 2)

- High risk critical workers 50 years and older who work in certain congregate settings: Agriculture; food processing; grocery stores; K-12 (teachers and school staff); childcare; corrections, prisons, jails or detention facilities (staff); public transit; fire; law enforcement

Phase 1B3 - (Tier 3)

- People 16 years or older with two or more co-morbidities or underlying conditions

Phase 1B4 - (Tier 4)

- High-risk critical workers in certain congregate settings under 50 years
- People, staff and volunteers all ages in congregate living settings:
 - Correctional facilities; group homes for people with disabilities; people experiencing homelessness that live in or access services in congregate settings

[Additional details of phase 1B](#) will be posted on our website.

It's important to note that we are not moving into phase 1B right now. Our state is still in [phase 1A](#) (PDF) of vaccinations, and will continue to be for the next few weeks. Many pharmacies, clinics and hospitals are vaccinating people in 1A1 (tier 1), and others have moved to 1A2 (tier 2). While phase 1A is still the priority, we hope that the release of phase 1B guidance will help facilities, counties and individuals plan for the months ahead. Once we're ready to start phase 1B, we will let our communities know how and where to get vaccine.

Next steps

We appreciate the ongoing partnership with local public health and the health care system in supporting this critical aspect of our response and recovery from the pandemic.

The [DOH website](#) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. [Find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#). Sign up for the DOH blog, [Public Health Connection](#).